7. Drugs

Immuno-supressive drugs, Anti TB drugs, Anti D, Anti Haemophile globulin, Erythropoiten, Blood and Blood products/Plasma for patients of burn.

8. Other major illness considered appropriate for assistance by Medical Superintendent/Committee of Doctors could be added to the List.

Rabies Vaccine

†*670. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of persons die of dog biting even today for want of rabies vaccines in the country;

(b) if so, the efforts to be made by Government for having adequate stock of rabies vaccine in Government hospitals throughout the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to initiate action against the officials responsible for not maintaining adequate stock of the rabies vaccine and other vital vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per data available from the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), deaths reported in the country due to rabies are 566 in 1998, 483 in 1999 and 403 in 2000. Shortage of Rabies Vaccine has not been reported by any State Government to this Ministry. Indents for supply of rabies vaccine are placed directly with manufacturers of the vaccine by the State Health Authorities.

2.5 million animal bites (including dog bites) are estimated to be occurring in the country every year. About 1.4 million individuals are getting post-exposure treatment for rabies annually, of which 0.5 million are receiving treatment with Neural Tissue Vaccine and 0.9 million are getting treatment with Tissue Culture Vaccine. The production capacity of Anti-Rabies Vaccine available in the country is sufficient to meet the requirement.

Since Health is essentially a State subject, it is for the State Health Authorities to ensure availability of Anti-Rabies Vaccine in sufficient quantity in all peripheral health units.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.